

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Applicant has made a good faith effort to list each and every prior claim, including any amendments or changes thereto (or status thereof) in this "Listing" section, however, should there be any discrepancy between the previous version of a claim (or status thereof) and the listing not explicitly amended, canceled or otherwise changed by this amendment, only the previous version (and status thereof) should be referred to as the intent of the Applicant.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Original) A method for selecting a resource from a plurality of potential resources for providing a service in response to a service request, the method comprising the steps of:

determining aging services by estimating which of the potential services are likely to be disconnected;

disconnecting one of the aging services from its associated resource; and

using the disconnected resource for providing the service in the service request.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the aging service selected to be disconnected is an oldest service for which the potential disconnect is most likely to occur.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the oldest service is determined by non-responsiveness to a transmitted query.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the service request is generated in accordance with an Internet Group Management Protocol.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the oldest service is determined by non-responsiveness to a General Query.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the oldest service is determined by non-responsiveness to Group Specific Query.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the resource is a virtual circuit.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the resource is bandwidth.

9. (Original) A method for selecting a resource from a plurality of potential resources for providing a service in response to a service request, the method comprising the steps of:

determining aging services by estimating which of the potential services are likely to be disconnected;

if one of the aging resources is used for providing the service in the service request, stopping the aging of the resource and using it for providing the service in the service request; and

if none of the aging resources are used for providing the service in the service request,

disconnecting one of the aging services from its associated resource, and

using the disconnected resource for providing the service in the service request.

10. (New) A method for selecting a resource from a plurality of potential resources for providing a service in

response to a service request, the method comprising the steps of:

- providing a poller for polling at least two of the plurality of potential resources;

- providing a timer initiator for initiating a timer for each of the at least two of the plurality of potential resources at the time of said polling;

- providing a timer reset for resetting the timer when said potential resource responds to said poller with a signal representing that the potential resource is still in use;

- providing a time out disconnect for disconnecting a one of said at least two of the plurality of potential resources when the timer associated with said one potential resource reaches a predetermined time without being reset;

- determining aging services by estimating which of the potential services having a timer running is likely to be disconnected;

- disconnecting a one of the aging services from its associated resource prior to the expiration of the timer; and

- using the disconnected resource for providing the service in the service request.

11. (New) A method for aging limited resources, the method comprising:

 providing a plurality of resources for broadcasting a service over each resource;

 querying each of said plurality of resources to determine whether each of the resources is in use to broadcast a service;

 categorizing each queried resource as an aging service;

 initiating a timer for expiring each aging service if the aging service does not respond within a predetermined time period;

 receiving a request to broadcast a requested service;

 if one of said potential resources is broadcasting the requested service, terminating aging of the one of said plurality of resources;

 if none of said potential resources is broadcasting the requested service, disconnecting the resource associated with an aging service from one of the aging services, and broadcasting the requested service over the disconnected resource.

12. (New) The method claim 11, wherein said resource is a virtual circuit.

13. (New) The method claim 11, wherein said resource is a virtual channel connected between a band carrier loop and a set top box.

14. (New) The method claim 11, wherein said resource is a virtual channel connected across a POTS/DSL Loop between a band carrier loop and a set top box.

15. (New) The method claim 11, wherein said resource is a media virtual channel and said service is a digital video broadcast.

16. (New) The method claim 11, wherein said resource is a media virtual channel and said service is a digital video broadcast.

17. (New) The method claim 11, wherein said aging is a time-out based disconnect.

18. (New) The method claim 11, wherein said aging is a time-out based disconnect as described by IGMPv1.

19. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the aging service selected to be disconnected is an oldest service for which the potential disconnect is most likely to occur.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the oldest service is determined by non-responsiveness to a transmitted query.